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CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS' SECTION

The section on Library Work with Children held its meeting in California Hall of the University of California on the morning of June 8.

Miss Jessie M. Carson, the chairman, was not present and her place was filled by Miss Jasmine Britton, vice-chairman.

The first paper was by Mrs. Edna Lyman Scott, lecturer and story-teller, on "The inspirational influence of books in the life of children."

(See p. 179)

Mrs. Scott was followed by Mrs. Alice G. Whitbeck, librarian of Contra Costa County free library, Martinez, Calif., who read a paper on "The reading of older boys and girls."

(See p. 185)

Mrs. Whitbeck's paper called forth discussion by Miss Greer of Tacoma, Miss Hunt of Brooklyn, and Mrs. Linn of Santa Barbara. In opening the discussion Miss Greer spoke of the guidance in book selection given children among the carefully chosen titles of the children's collection, and called attention to the retrogression so often apparent in a child's reading when he is given untrammelled choice among a miscellaneous collection of adult books.

The remedies suggested by Miss Greer and Miss Hunt to counteract the indiscriminate reading of adolescents were two: First, a collection of books suited to the taste of children in this transition period; and second, and most desirable, assistants who work in both the children's room and the circulation department. In a small library this desirable expedient is a necessity, but in a large library it is often too expensive a proceeding, and the intermediate collection, shelved preferably in the adult department, is imperative.

Mrs. Linn spoke of the needs of a small library and suggested the use of such lists

as the Brooklyn list of "Books for girls," and the Cleveland list of "Seventy-five books of adventure for boys."

Miss Wood, of Portland, sent her contribution to the discussion by Miss Bailey. She suggested that the library reorganize on the six-six plan that is followed by some schools. This would give six years in the grades and in the children's room and three years each in Junior and Senior high schools, at which time the children would be served by the intermediate collection. She spoke very strongly of the need of teaching literary values not only to the children but to mothers and teachers, and said that children's librarians must learn to evaluate children's books more carefully.

Miss Hunt ended the discussion with a cheerful prognostication for the future based on the successful outcome of the work in the past and declared that children's librarians "have the right to be not only cheerful but chesty."

Mrs. May Dexter Henshall, school library organizer, California State library, read a paper on "Reading in rural districts."

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At the close of the session a very brief business meeting was held at which the following officers were elected: Miss Gertrude E. Andrus, chairman, Seattle public library; Miss Elisabeth Knapp, vice-chairman, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh; Miss Bessie Sibley, secretary and treasurer. Mr. J. C. Dana and Mr. E. L. Pearson were appointed to the Advisory Board.

The following resolution was passed and sent to the Council of the A. L. A.:

The Children's Librarian Section of the A. L. A. wishes to express its sympathy with the efforts of the Boy Scouts to improve the reading of boys by means of a week when the retail book trade of the United States shall place special emphasis on juvenile books, and suggests that the Council of the A. L. A. shall indicate through formal action its approval of this attempt.